

This listing of claims will replace all previous versions and listings in the application.

Listing of Claims

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Claim 1 (Currently Amended). An automated method of delivering a recorded information message via a telephone dialing system to an automated recorder while simultaneously monitoring the recorder for echo cancellation signals, comprising the steps of:

(a) (i) placing a telephone call to a telephone number of an answering machine,
the telephone number being selected from a database of telephone numbers;

(a) (ii) detecting a ~~solid tone emitted~~ signal being emitted from the answering machine ~~for a selected time period;~~

(a) (iii) determining if the detected signal is a continuous noise signal over a first time period or is a period of silence over a second time period, the first time period being different from the second time period;

(b) playing a recorded information message onto the answering machine;

(c) monitoring the answering machine for echo cancellation signals while simultaneously playing the recorded message;

(d) repeating step (b) for echo cancellation signals; and

(e) continuing to play the recorded message if there are no echo cancellation signals, wherein the method overcomes problems with premature launching of the recorded message so that the recorded message is launched closer to the time when the answering machine begins recording, and the recorded message is delivered in a nontruncated form; and

(f) repeating the above steps until at least a pass through of all the telephone numbers from the database have been called.

Claim 2 (Previously Presented). The automated method of delivering the recorded information message of claim 1, wherein the echo cancellation signals includes:

sounds being emitted from the answering machine.

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Claim 3 (Original). The automated method of delivering the recorded information message of claim 1, wherein step(d) further includes:

repeating step(b) for less than three sound occurrences.

Claim 4 (Previously Presented). The automated method of delivering the recorded information message of claim 1, wherein step(e) further includes:

continuing to play the recorded message if there are at least three echo cancellation signals.

Claim 5 (Previously Presented). The automated method of delivering the recorded information message of claim 1, further comprising the steps of:

(f) removing echo signal monitoring and continuing to play the recorded message to completion.

Claim 6 (Original). The automated system for delivering recorded information messages of claim 1, wherein the answering machine of step(a) is chosen from one of:

a tape machine, a digital machine, a pager, a telephone provider voice/memory call machine, and a cellular machine.

Claim 7 (Currently Amended). The automated system for delivering recorded information messages of claim 1, wherein step(a) includes:

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- ~~(a)(i) placing a telephone call to a telephone number selected from a database of telephone numbers;~~
 - ~~—— (a)(ii) monitoring the status of the call to determine if the call is connected or not connected, if the call is connected go to the next step (a)(iv), if the call is not connected go to step (a)(iii);~~
 - ~~—— (a)(iii) disconnecting the call and updating the database to reflect the call being not connected, and go to step (a)(i) select another telephone number from the database; and~~
 - ~~—— (a)(iv) determine if an answering machine noise signal is detected over a first time period or a silence response is detected over a second time period, the first time period being different from the second time period and if so go to step (b); and~~
 - ~~—— (a)(v) determine if a live cadence/voice signal is detected and if so go to step (b); and~~
 - ~~—— (b) playing a recorded information message.~~

Claim 8 (Previously Presented). The method of claim 1, wherein the selected time period of the solid tone emission is approximately one second.

~~Claim 9~~(Canceled).

Claim 10(Currently Amended). The method of claim 9 1, wherein the first selected time period ~~of the solid tone emission~~ is approximately one second, and the ~~subsequent time period for the silent response~~ second selected time period is approximately two seconds.

Claim 11(Currently Amended). An automated method of delivering a recorded information message via a telephone dialing system to an automated recorder while simultaneously monitoring the recorder for echo cancellation signals, comprising the steps of:

- (a) (i) placing a telephone call to an answering machine;
- (a) (ii) alternatively detecting for both a continuous solid tone being emitted from the answering machine over a first time period, ~~and~~ or for a silence response from the answering machine over a second time period, wherein the first time period is different from the second time period;
- (b) playing a recorded information message onto the answering machine;
- (c) monitoring the answering machine for echo cancellation signals while simultaneously playing the recorded message;
- (d) repeating step (b) for echo cancellation signals; and
- (e) continuing to play the recorded message if there are no echo cancellation signals, wherein the method overcomes problems with premature launching of the recorded message so that the recorded message is launched closer to the time when the

answering machine begins recording, and wherein the recorded message is delivered in a nontruncated form.

Claim 12(Previously Presented). The method of claim 11, wherein the first time period of the solid tone emission is approximately one second and the second time period for the silent response is approximately two seconds.

Claim 13 (Previously Presented). The method of claim 11, further comprising the step of:

(a)(iii) detecting for a subsequent silence response over a subsequent time period after expiration of the first time period for the detection of the solid tone emission from the answering machine, the subsequent time period being different from the first time period.

Claim 14(Previously Presented). The method of claim 13, wherein the first time period is approximately one second, and the subsequent time period is approximately two seconds.

Claim 15(Previously Presented). The method of claim 11, further comprising the step of:

(a)(iii) detecting for a subsequent silence response over a subsequent time period after expiration of the second time period for the detection of the silence response from the answering machine, the subsequent time period being different from the second time period.

Claim 16(Previously Presented). The method of claim 15, wherein the second time period is approximately two seconds and the subsequent time period is approximately one second.

Claim 17(Previously Presented). The method of claim 11, further comprising the steps of:

(a)(iii) detecting for a first subsequent silence response over a first subsequent time period after expiration of the first time period for the detection of the solid tone emission from the answering machine, the first subsequent time period being different from the first time period; and

detecting for a second subsequent silence response over a second subsequent time period after expiration of the second time period for the detection of the silence response from the answering machine, the second subsequent time period being different from the second time period.

Claim 18(Previously Presented). The method of claim 17, wherein the first time period is approximately one second and the second time period is approximately two seconds.

Claim 19(Previously Presented). The method of claim 18, wherein the first subsequent time period is approximately two seconds, and the second subsequent time period is approximately one second.

Claim 20(Currently Amended). An automated system for delivering a recorded information message via a telephone dialing system to an automated recorder while simultaneously monitoring the recorder for echo cancellation signals, comprising:

means placing a telephone call to an answering machine;

means for alternatively detecting for both a continuous solid tone being emitted from the answering machine over a first time period, ~~and~~or for detecting a silence response from the answering machine over a second time period, wherein the first time period is different from the second time period;

means for playing a recorded information message onto the answering machine;

means for continuously monitoring the answering machine for echo cancellation signals while simultaneously playing the recorded message; and

means for continuing to play the recorded message if there are no echo cancellation signals, wherein the system overcomes problems with premature launching of the recorded message so that the recorded message is launched closer to the time when the answering machine begins recording, wherein the recorded message is delivered in a nontruncated form.